



## **H.Res. 467 - Condemning the decision by the University and College Union of the United Kingdom to support a boycott of Israeli academia**

H.Res. 467 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Patrick Murphy (D-PA) on June 6, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and was considered under unanimous consent.

H.Res. 467 is expected to be considered on the floor on July 11, 2007.

### **Summary**

H.Res. 467 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- condemns the vote by the University and College Union (UCU) of May 30, 2007, to boycott Israeli academics and academic institutions;
- urges the international scholarly community, the European Union, and individual governments, to reject, or continue to reject, calls for an academic boycott of Israel and reaffirm their commitment to academic freedom and cultural and scientific international exchange;
- urges governments and educators throughout the world to reaffirm the importance of academic freedom and open dialogue and to condemn measures that would prevent the production, sharing, and exchange of knowledge;
- urges other unions and organizations to reject the troubling and disturbing actions of the UCU; and
- urges the general members of the UCU to reject the call of the union's leadership to boycott Israel.

### **Background**

On May 30, 2007, the University and College Union of the United Kingdom voted in favor of a motion to boycott Israeli faculty and academic institutions. The UCU was created in 2006 out of a merger of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE). Both

AUT (in 2005) and NATFHE (in 2006) have passed resolutions supporting a boycott of Israeli academics and academic institutions.

These unions have ignored human rights abuses occurring around the world in nations such as Sudan, Zimbabwe, Iran, and Venezuela.

These and any other attempts to stifle intellectual freedom through the imposition of an academic boycott are counterproductive since research and academic exchange provide an essential bridge between otherwise disconnected cultures and countries and these boycotts represent a dangerous assault on the principles of academic freedom and open exchange.

**Cost**

This legislation has not been scored by CBO.

**Staff Contact**

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